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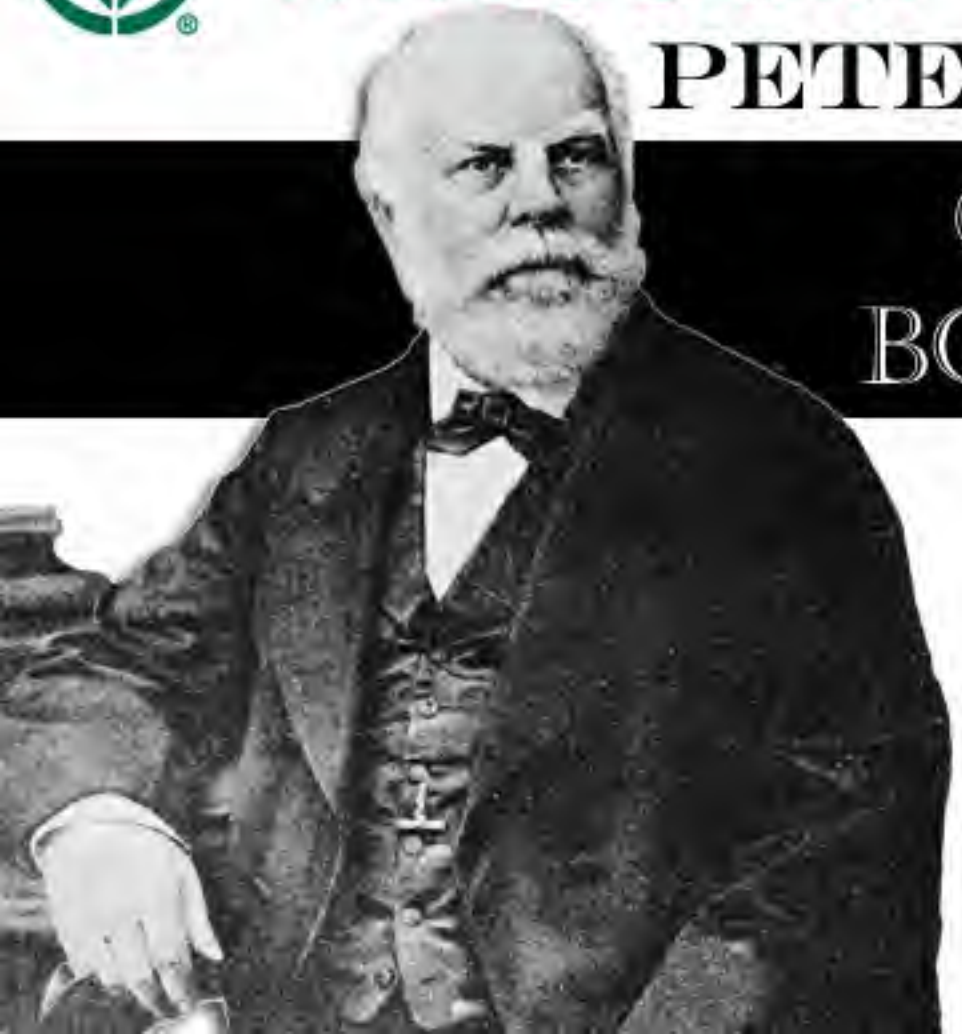

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Op. Rafinesquii
Van Houtte

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Opuntia Ficus Indica

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Rome Oct 29 '85

This same Opuntia is very common in the Gardens of the Palaces of the Cæsars on the Palatine; joints broader, quite glaucous, as the same from Messina are, but entirely without spines or with very few of them. They bear abundantly and the wasps are eating the fruits now.

Opuntia monacantha?, dark green, is still flowering; fruit abundant, none ripe now.

Both these species abundantly cultivated in Rome — but scarcely any other.

Opuntia Tuna from Sicily, seen in Florence; fruit as in the St Louis specimen, very strongly turbinate; was called "O. Dillenii"

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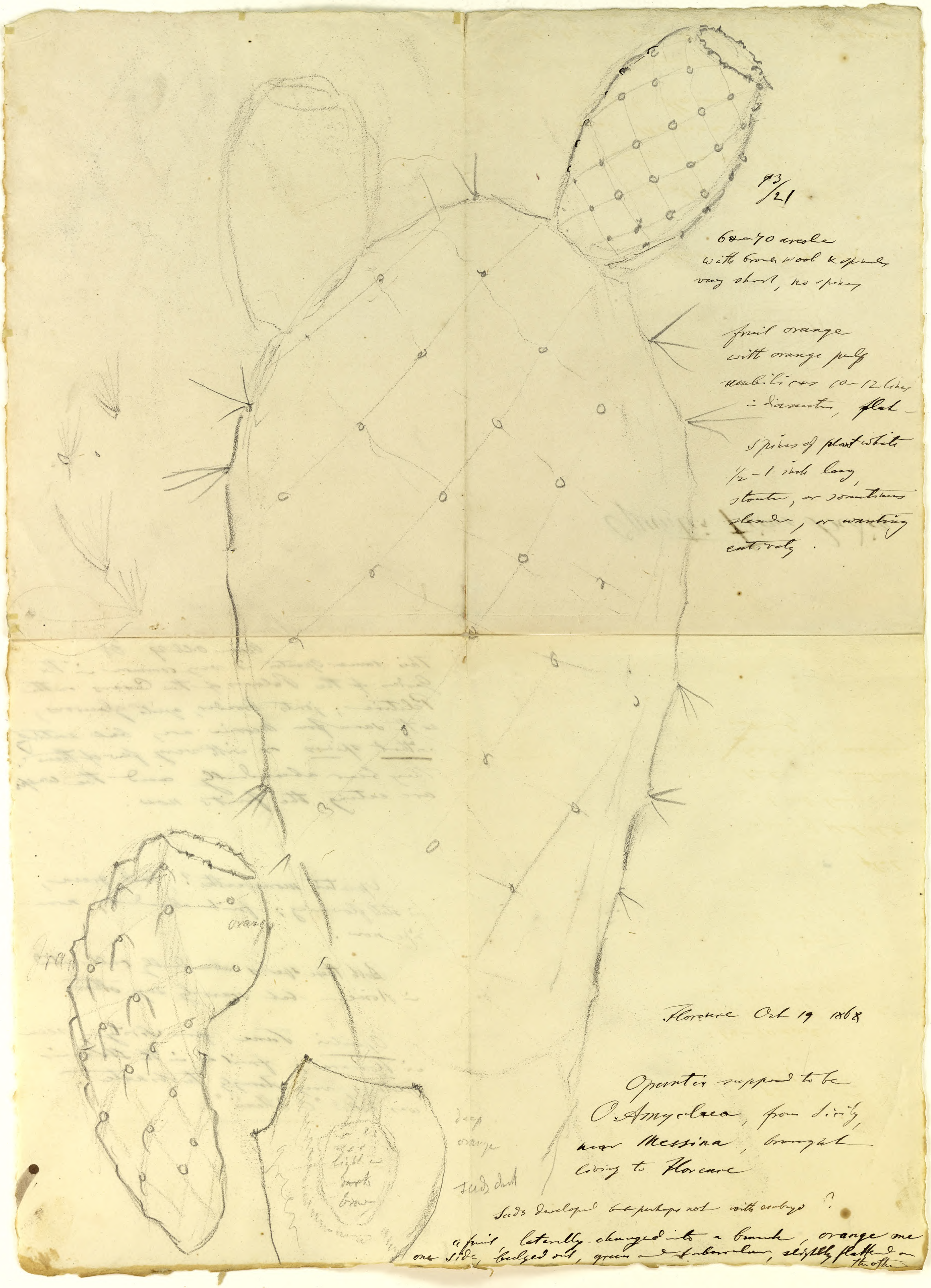

#3/21
60–70 areole
with brown wool & spines
very short, no spines
fruit orange
with orange pulp
umbilicus 10–12 lines
in diameter, flat –
spines of plant white
1/2 – 1 inch long,
stouter, or sometimes
slender, or wanting
entirely.
orange
deep
orange
light
dark
brown
seeds dark
Florence Oct 19 1868
Opuntia supposed to be
O. Amycolaea, from Sicily,
near Messina, brought
living to Florence
Seeds developed but perhaps not with embryo ?
"fruit, laterally changed into a branch, orange one
one side, bulged out, green and tubercular, slightly flattened on
the other

Opuntia Ficus Indica
var aurantiaca

Naples Dec 29 1868
the most common and most
palatable variety in Market

11 Series

7 series

5/18

40-45 areolae

fruit orange = yellow outside
deeper orange inside

Umbilicus very slightly immersed
crinkled

Grün August
5/18, 11 7/18
26 11 September

The most savory of all the varieties seen here — juicy but not too much so; becomes more mealy when over ripe.

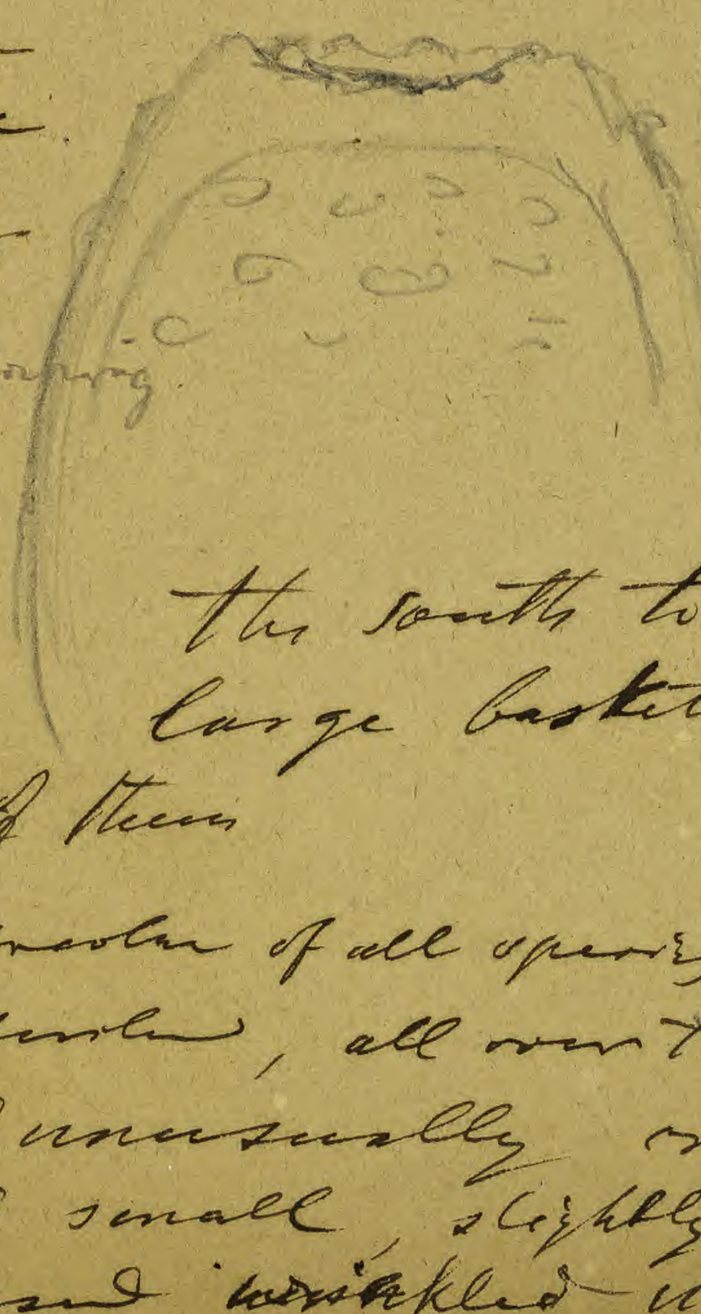
It is brought from the neighborhood and from the south to the market in large baskets, whole shiploads of them

6 series

10 series

60-65 areolae
10/26

5/13 Gathering



Areolae of all sizes 45-65. — scantily tubercled, all over the fruit, especially and unusually crowded on top and small, slightly (more or less so) immersed wrinkled umbilicus; a little elevated, covered with brown wool and small bristles

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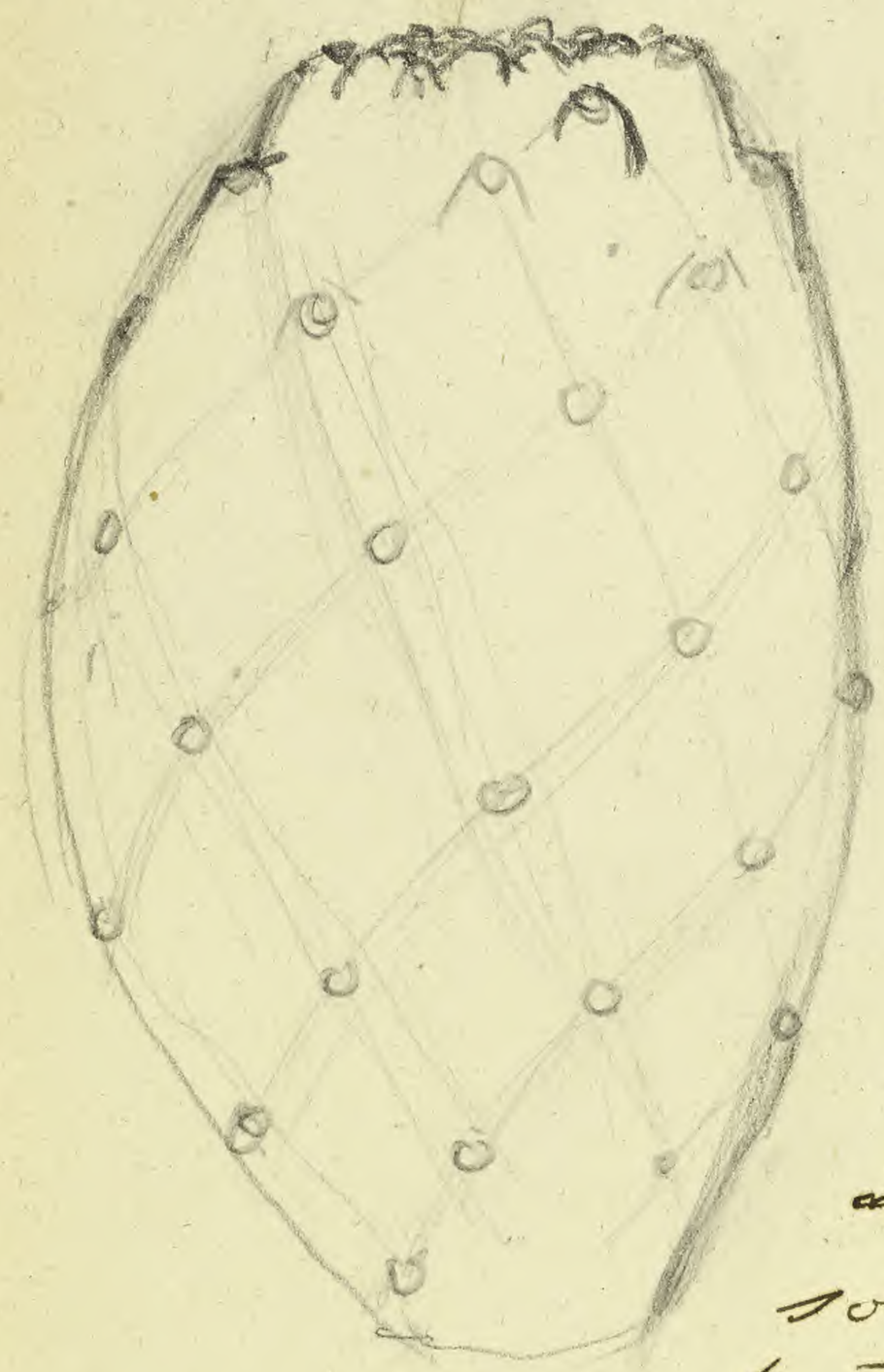
Opuntia Ficus Indica

var ~~Flavescens~~ ~~viridula~~ pallida

Naples Dec 29 1868

not as common in market as the orange coloured variety more common than the purple one



50-60 areolae in 8/21

fruit yellowish, rose or pale purple on one side much like an apple — inside pale, yellowish with green tinge, just like an ordinary apple — separating readily from the rind; not as juicy as the purple variety somewhat mealy, and of more taste — Umbilicus immersed, much wrinkled

areolae 50-60 in 8/21 order — in the single specimen examined many seeds were abortive

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Naples, Nov. 30. 1868

The "Opuntia Ficus Indica" most abundantly cultivated about Naples is the same plant seen by me in Rome and that seen in Florence, brought from Sicily — characterized by its orange fruit. But there is a variety, often seen in the markets at Naples with pale yellowish green colour, and whitish green pulp — otherwise not distinguishable (a third, with blood-red pulp, probably belongs to another species, occurs also in the markets, but is rare). The plant is abundantly cultivated especially in Capri, and is retailed in the markets of Naples at 1 centesimo a piece or 100 for 1 franc, under the name of Fico d'India.

I have seen the plant commonly 5–8, sometimes 10–12 feet high — of glaucous hue, with elongated obovate joints, 12–18 inches long and half as wide; tubercles when young with short subulate leaves (about 2 lines long) on the prominent pulvini and 1 or 2 delicate white spines 3–6 lines long in the axils, which usually disappear after the first year, so that the older joints are entirely spineless.

I have seen several flowers yet, but could not obtain them. They were yellow, and small, probably not more than 2 or 2½ inches in diameter.

Fruit mature before this time, very few green ones still on the stems; 3 inches long 2 in diameter; 65–70 areolae in 13/21 order; umbilicus flat, 9 lines in diameter. — Taste sweet and pleasant, not very juicy, not acid

Seed rather small, irregular with wavy rim.

A seedless variety cultivated in Sicily — also in Hort Bot Neapol.

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Joannis Gussone, Flore Siculae Synopsis
vol 1. Neapoli 1842

pag. 549 Opuntia

1. O. Ficus Indica Mill. Hav. Dec. Prod.

erecta elata articulata – proliferus, articulis ellipticis obovatisque compressis planis, spinis fasciculatis lanuginem subsequentibus.

Cactus Ficus Indica, Dec. Pl. gran. t. 138

Aprili – Junio

Truncus aetate teres, diametro pedali – sesquipedali et ultra 8–12 ped. altus articulis pedalibus, junioribus tuberculatis, tuberculis spina unica valida elongata instructis lanuginem fuscam duplo superantibus – – – flores flavi magni in margine articulorum superiorum sessiles – – fructus magni 3–4 pollicares edules –

Ex synonymis Linnaei et ex loco natali [nostram plantam] ad O. vulgarem retuli, tamen Cl. Webb et Berthol. in Phyt. Canar. T. 209 notant O. vulgarem veram Millerii (quae diversa ab O. vulgari Bauh. et Caesalp....) nuper ab America foederata traxisse Raseruus fil. et hanc a plantis in Italia meridionali a remotis temporibus cultam satis esse diversam. Hinc eorum auctoritate innixus sub. O. ficus indica plantam siculam refero. Tamen citi ejusdem speciei varietates hanc et sequentem [sic ind. & angula]

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habere
cum illis assentire nequeo . . . . = Cactus decumanus L.

Varietas spinis deciduis, nullis, vel subsolitariis, tamen haec varietas nunquam cum sequente confunditur

Colunturque in Sicilia varietates sequentes:

a. fructu luteoviente
b. fructu albido
c. — sanguineo
d. — asperrimo

interquas b. et d. praestantiores sunt.

p. 550

2. O. Amyclaea, Ten. Syll. p. 240. DC. Pr.

erecta dilute articulata — prolifera, articulis elliptico obovatisque, compressis, planis, spinis validis divergentibus inaequalibus albidis, lanugine obsoleta.

Cactus maximus Jussieu prod. 1. 240, an et Icon. Ten. Fl. Nap. 1. 236. Salm?

In rupibus calcareis, et praeterea ad sepes impenetrabiles extruendas in Sicilia colitur

Aprili — Junio.

Habitus et alii characteres ita praecedenti similes, ut demptis spinis validis numerosis et fructus minores (sic!) minusque carnosos et sapidos, illius varietatem spinosam diceres

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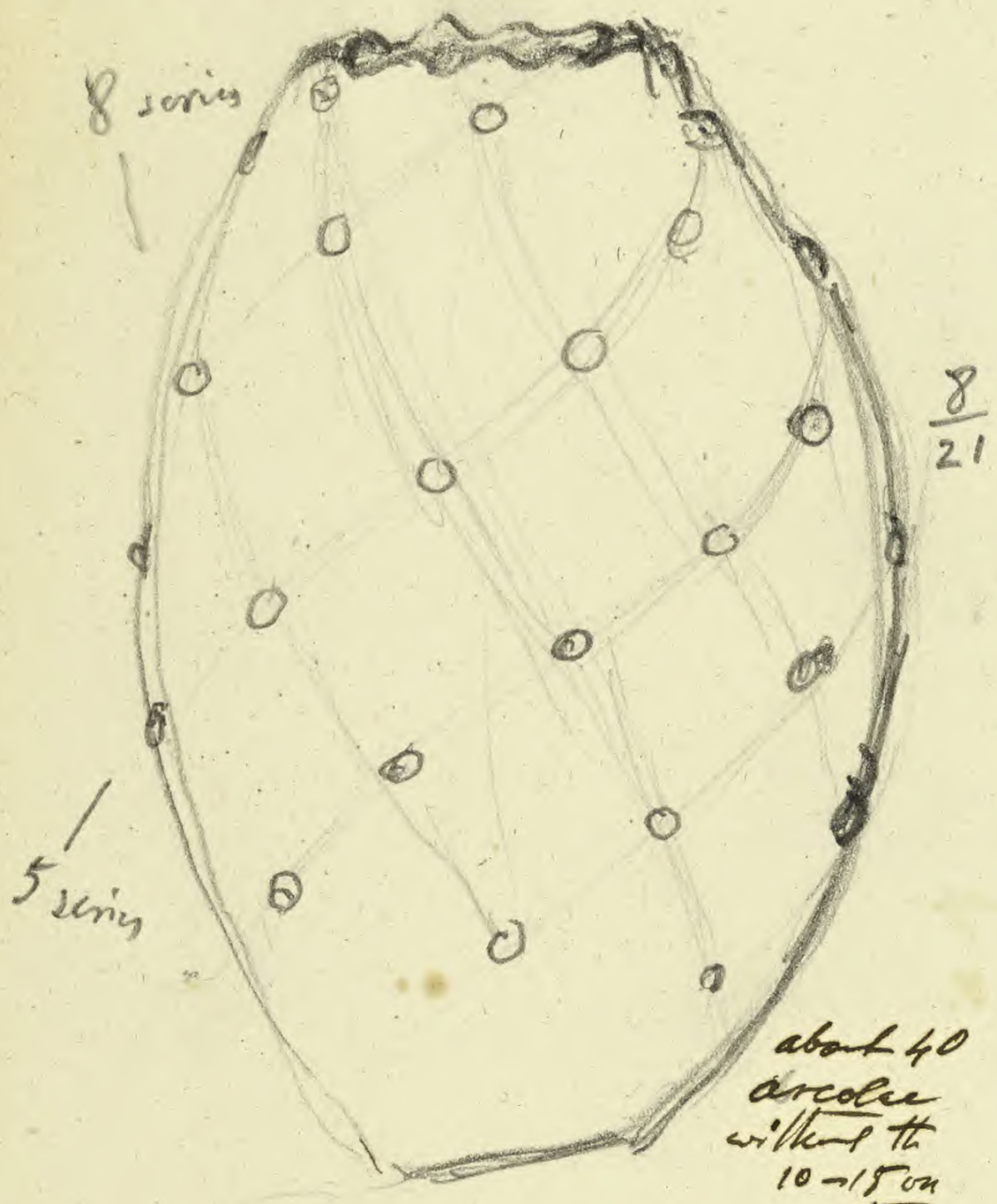
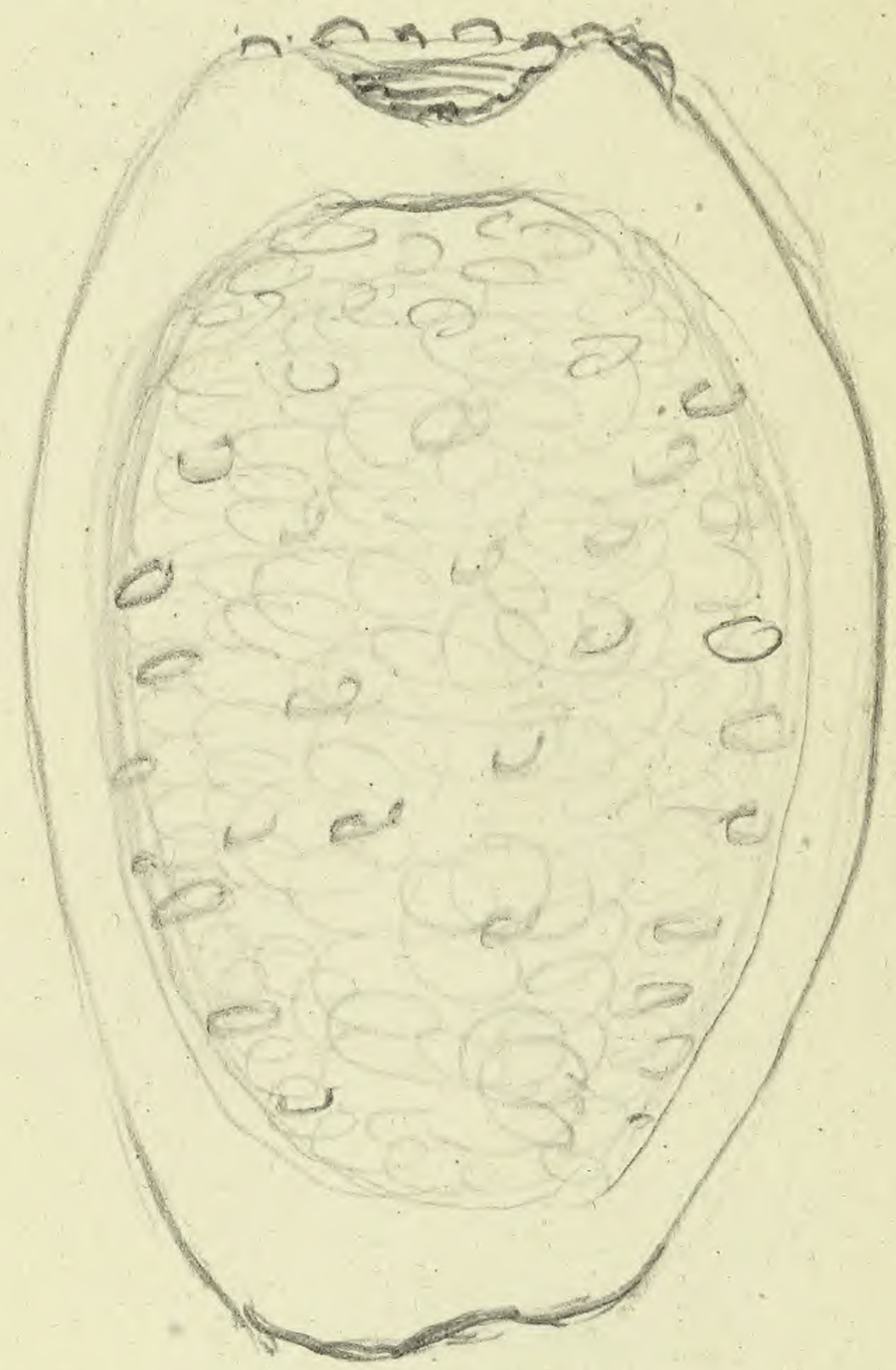
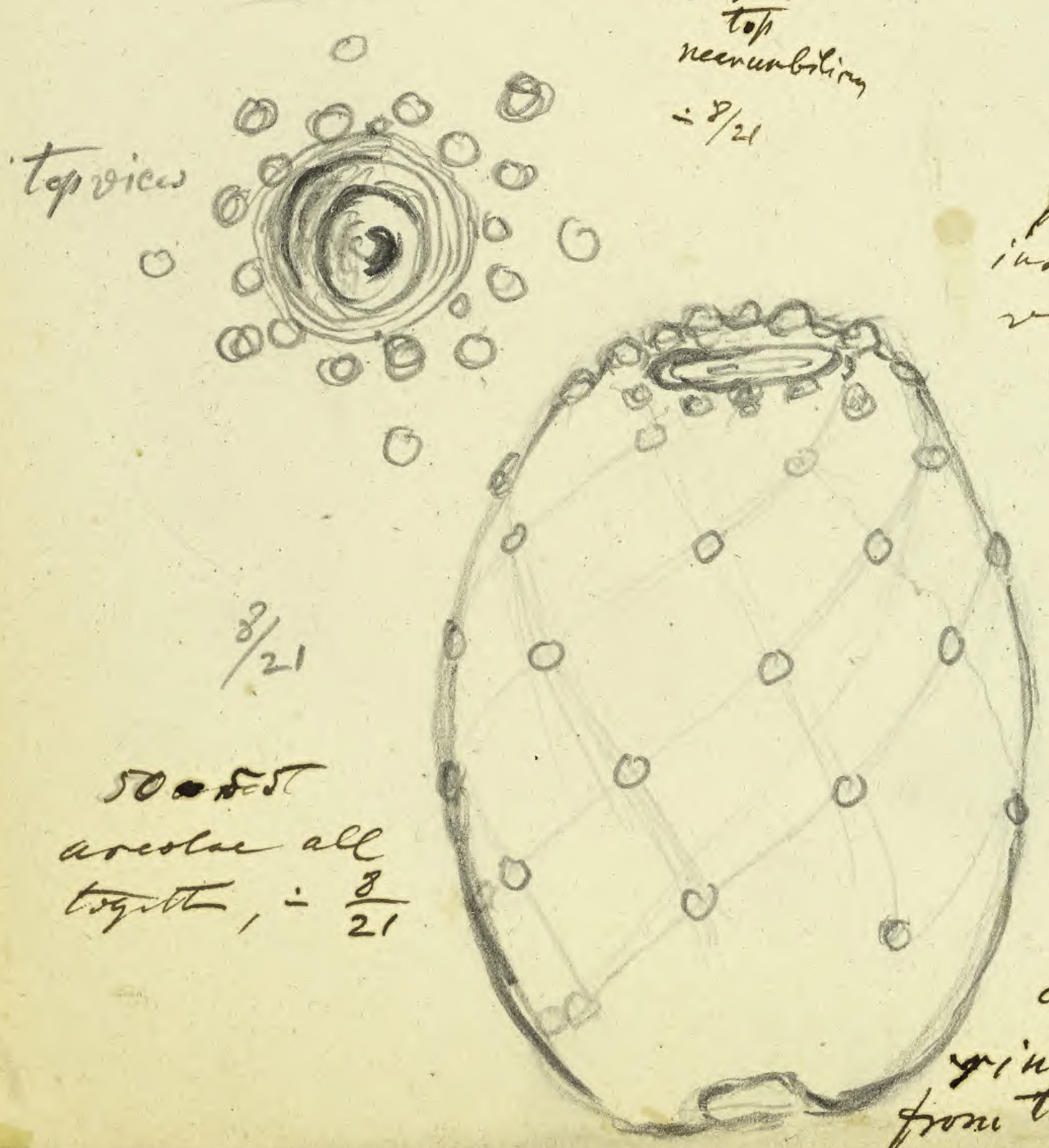
Opuntia Ficus Indica var purpurea

Naples Dec 29 1868

not as common in market as the orange coloured variety.







fruit deep purple inside and outside very juicy, but rather insipid. umbilicus deeply wrinkled, immersed, small.

In this as well as in all the forms the umbilicus is much smaller than the top of the fruit, which is rounded and unusually crowded with areolae

areolae scarcely prolonate

rind not readily separating from the pulp.

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